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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 30, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 24 totaled an estimated 17.7 billion ton-miles, 7.7 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 21 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 369 billion ton-miles, 4.6 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 24 totaled 439,813 cars, 12.4 percent below 1979, and 0.3 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 14.2 percent in the East, 10.5 percent in the South, and 12.1 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 19 of the 21 commodity groups declined. However, coal loadings totaled 116,446 cars, 1.4 percent higher than 1979. The largest decline was in motor vehicles and equipment, down 44.4 percent. Ten of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended May 17 totaled 31,216 cars, down 14.8 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 55,619 trailers and/or containers, 13.5 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 20 weeks of the year was 663,327 cars, 6.8 percent lower than last year, and 1,203,807 trailers and/or containers, down 4.6 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/24/80.

	Loadings in Week ended May 24, 1980		Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	24,104	D	2,943	10.9	D	859	3.4
Other farm products	4,814	I	224	4.9	D	147	3.0
Metallic ores	37,307	D	1,114	2.9	I	1,393	3.9
Coal	116,446	I	1,642	1.4	I	186	0.2
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	15,655	D	3,363	17.7	I	408	2.7
Nonmetallic minerals	13,961	D	2,365	14.5	I	970	7.5
Grain mill products	16,078	D	2,069	11.4	D	294	1.8
Food and kindred products	18,225	D	466	2.5	I	207	1.1
Primary forest products	18,372	D	2,903	13.6	D	1,433	7.2
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,770	D	4,031	31.5	I	296	3.5
Pulp, paper and allied products	21,038	D	753	3.5	I	117	0.6
Chemicals and allied products	25,133	D	4,112	14.1	D	230	0.9
Petroleum products	5,539	D	1,100	16.6	D	38	0.7
Stone, clay and glass products	14,791	D	5,080	25.6	D	680	4.4
Coke	5,308	D	2,339	30.6	D	356	6.3
Metals and products	16,072	D	5,652	26.0	D	348	2.1
Motor vehicles and equipment	14,826	D	11,847	44.4	I	120	0.8
Waste and scrap materials	11,753	D	3,001	20.3	D	638	5.1
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,259	D	2,178	17.5	-	0	-
All other carloads	41,170	D	8,364	16.9	I	176	0.4
LCL traffic	192	D	241	55.7	I	18	10.3
Total Cars Loaded	439,813	D	62,055	12.4	D	1,132	0.3
Corresponding week of 1979	501,868						

	1980	1979	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (21 weeks)	9,291,418	9,408,513	D	1.2
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
20 weeks cumulative	351.5	333.6	I	5.4
Week ended May 24	17.7	19.2	D	7.7
21 weeks cumulative	369.2	352.8	I	4.6

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